Portland 25 Nov. 1878

Dear Mr Garrison

106 Yes - I remember all about that time, when Mr Thompson was in the country - that dark time. To look back upon it - one feels as if a horrible nightmare was brooding over the ~~country~~ land. We can hardly understand now - how it could be so - with all the education and intelligence - and with all the Churches and schools and with all the - what was called piety and virtue of that day. The whole thing was suited only to a semi-barbarous people - like those of our Savior's time, who hunted people - and stoned them and crucified them for opinion's sake.

a full - accurate and intimate history of all that time - of what led to it - and of what came of it - and of the self sacrificing men and women who led in it and suffered by it - will be the great need of the next generation.

Who shall write it? It should be done now - A thousand facts and incidents of thrilling interest will soon fade away with the men and women who know them. A thousand things stranger than any in fiction. ought to be preserved - as an invaluable lesson to coming generations of men. It ought not to be your only - to do that work. because your name should occupy a place in it, where your hand could not put it. Who shall do it? Let some

one do it - and put his soul into it as the crowning work of a noble life.

I hate the word - despair - and yet sometimes - I almost despair of the Republic - Half the nation almost, trampling under foot the bodies and souls and the rights of the poor and the weak - defying God and man - and ruling by fraud, violence and blood! - And fully half of the other half - homologating all that, or indifferent to it!

The nation ~~can't~~ cannot live - except with a profound respect for Law and Liberty and for the just and equal rights of all men - of the poor and ignorant as well as of the rich and learned - of the weak and humble as well as of the proud and strong

Truly yours Neal Dow